Approved For Release 2009/01/29 : CIA-RDP83-01074R000200290002-6

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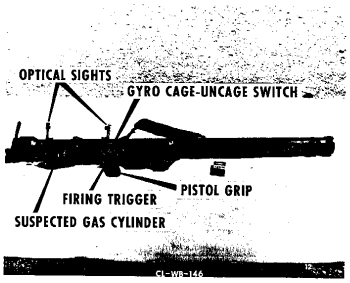
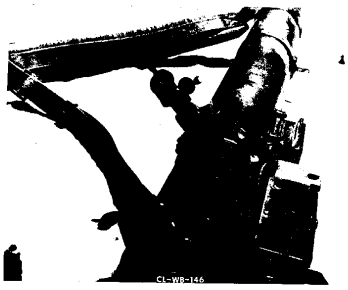




NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

SA-7/GRAIL (STRELA)

U.S. Studying Soviet Rocket

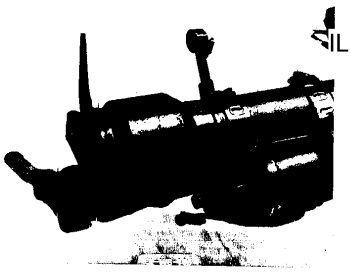
ROCKETS
'Disturbing' Weapon in War is Studied

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The Soviet-made SA-7/Grail (STRELA) missile system pieces with launchers were recently captured by ARVN troops north of Hue, and are being returned to the US for exploitation.

The launcher with its accessories is made of aluminum and steel tubing and four stainless or chrome steel wires about 30 meters. An initial examination of the weapon indicates that the launcher has two conical stabilizing fins and a furry, white nose cone. There appears to be two missile locks on the turret to indicate that the missile can be fired. A safety device is incorporated into a pistol grip mechanism. An electrical connection in the launcher is linked with the firing trigger and what is probably a gyro-type escape chord switch. This assembly may also contain a pistol grip mechanism. A missile assembly forward of the pistol grip mechanism has a compressed-gas cylinder with a rectangular section. The missile has not been recovered from launchers, but the missile is believed to be 1.5 meters. The missile's infrared seek is reportedly in two halves, and exposed ports and four fins, which are locked in instant spin, can be seen at the rear.

The SA-7 missile has been successfully shot by Egyptian-manned Soviet-made surface-to-air missile systems during the Middle East war. Since the attack with first acknowledged shoot-down of an Israeli aircraft, the Soviet nose cones seven times and intercepted two aircraft. Tanks are the first photos released from the war. Published as directed material of unclassified the system.



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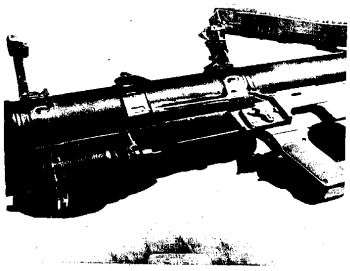

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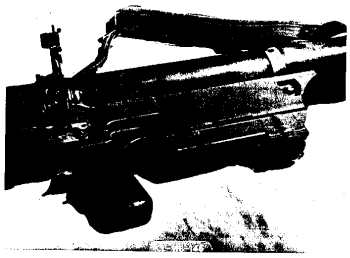
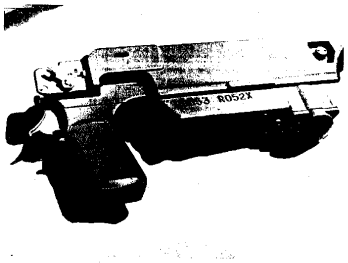
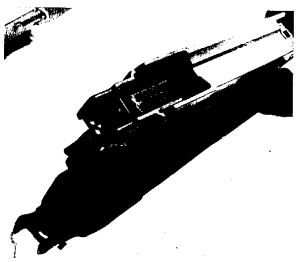
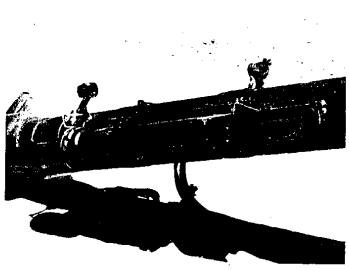
PHOTOS VIA COMPASS LINK









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